

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Previously presented): An isolated polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

3.-13. (Canceled)

14. (New): A screening method, comprising:

(1) contacting a test substance with a cell expressing a recombinant polypeptide, said polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide produces O₂⁻, increases expression of Tumor Necrosis Factor- α (TNF- α), and/or increases expression of cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2);

(2) determining whether said test substance inhibits at least one of: (i) said production of O₂⁻, (ii) said increase in expression of TNF- α , and (iii) said increase in expression of COX-2; and

(3) selecting a substance capable of inhibiting at least one of: (i) said production of O₂⁻, (ii) said increase in expression of TNF- α , and (iii) said increase in expression of COX-2.